

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2005

Contact: William Butler
202-727-7664

SPECTRUM COALITION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF SAVE LIVES ACT

*Public Safety Organizations Applaud Effort to Provide
Public Safety Critical Spectrum Needs*

Washington, DC – The Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety today announced its strong support for legislation put forward by U.S. Senators John McCain and Joseph Lieberman, the SAVE LIVES Act of 2005 which in part would provide organizations a date certain to begin using spectrum for public safety purposes.

“The SAVE LIVES Act of 2005 meets critical spectrum needs for public safety organizations across the country,” said Robert LeGrande, of the Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety. “The September 11 Commission included in its recommendations the immediate need for additional spectrum for public safety and this legislation will help meet those needs.”

First, the SAVE LIVES Act of 2005 provides a date certain for public safety organizations to use the 24 MHz of spectrum currently held by analog television. “By providing a date certain for public safety organizations, the SAVE LIVES Act will allow public safety organizations to immediately plan interoperable communications systems and provides funding sources to accelerate the deployment of tools that are vital in the event of an emergency,” added LeGrande.

The legislation also allows the Congress an opportunity to look into further spectrum needs for public safety by delaying the auction of critical spectrum until public safety considerations are met. “By delaying the auctioning of recovered spectrum public safety will have an opportunity for a full evaluation of their needs. This is a critical step in the creation of national, interoperable, broadband wireless public safety networks,” added LeGrande.

“There is still much that needs to be done to ensure that our first responders have the tools necessary in a life saving situation. Creating interoperable city or region wide broadband wireless networks is one of the most important things we can do to achieve that important goal and the SAVE LIVES Act will help us to achieve that goal,” concluded Lt. Charles Smith of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety (www.spectrumcoalition.org) is a national coalition of cities, states, and public safety associations organized to secure additional spectrum in the 700 MHz range to support critical public safety national broadband wireless network deployments. In this era of Code Orange warnings, the capacity to rapidly deploy broadband wireless applications is absolutely essential in meeting the public safety and homeland security needs of the nation.

Broadband wireless technologies provide critical public safety and homeland security applications: chemical/biological alarms, remote video monitoring at command sites, video information for officers on patrol, cross-jurisdictional database messaging, and ambulance-hospital video links.

###